

JEFFREY S. CHIESA
ATTORNEY GENERAL OF NEW JERSEY
Division of Law
124 Halsey Street, 5th Floor
P.O. Box 45029
Newark, New Jersey 07101
Attorney for the Professional Counselor
Examiners Committee of the New Jersey
State Board of Marriage and Family
Therapy Examiners

By: Alexis Goldberger
Deputy Attorney General
Tel. (973) 648-3808

FILED
Julius Balluz
STATE OF NEW JERSEY
BOARD OF MARRIAGE AND FAMILY THERAPY EXAMINERS
PROFESSIONAL COUNSELOR EXAMINERS COMMITTEE

May 7, 2013

STATE OF NEW JERSEY
DEPARTMENT OF LAW & PUBLIC SAFETY
DIVISION OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS
PROFESSIONAL COUNSELOR EXAMINERS
COMMITTEE OF THE STATE BOARD OF
MARRIAGE AND FAMILY THERAPY EXAMINERS

IN THE MATTER OF THE LICENSE OF	:	
	:	ADMINISTRATIVE ACTION
PATRICIA DELORENZO, LPC	:	
LICENSE NO. 37PC00293500	:	CONSENT ORDER
	:	OF VOLUNTARY SURRENDER
TO PRACTICE PROFESSIONAL COUNSELING	:	OF LICENSE
IN THE STATE OF NEW JERSEY	:	

This matter was opened to the Professional Counselor Examiners Committee ("Committee") of the New Jersey State Board of Marriage and Family Therapy Examiners ("Board") upon review of information that Patricia Delorenzo, LPC ("Respondent") pled guilty to one count of health care fraud in violation of Title 18, United States Code, Section 1347(a)(2).

By way of a plea agreement filed on November 15, 2012, Respondent agreed to plead guilty to devising and intending to devise a scheme to obtain money fraudulently from the funds of the Blue Cross of Northeastern Pennsylvania ("BCNEPA"), a health care benefit program, from May 2009 through December 2011. The Information filed by the

United States District Court for the Middle District of Pennsylvania specifies, among other charges, that Respondent billed BCNEPA for cancelled appointments, created false counseling notes for sessions that had not taken place but were submitted for payment, and submitted claims for in-person counseling sessions that either took place over the telephone or never took place at all. Respondent submitted approximately \$20,000 of fraudulent claims in total. She faces a maximum sentence of imprisonment for 10 years and/or a fine of \$250,000, and supervised release for up to 3 years.

Under the terms of the plea agreement, Respondent also agreed to relinquish her licenses for the practice of professional counseling in Pennsylvania and all other states in which she holds licenses. Furthermore, Respondent's agreement to refrain from seeking or accepting any professional license related to the practice of professional counseling for a period of ten (10) years will be a condition of any supervisory term that may be imposed as part of her sentencing.

The Committee finds that Respondent has engaged in the use or employment of dishonesty, fraud, or deception in violation of N.J.S.A. 45:1-21(b). Respondent's guilty plea also provides grounds for the Committee to take disciplinary action against her license in that Respondent has been convicted of, or engaged in acts constituting, a crime of moral turpitude and one relating adversely to the activity regulated by the Board in violation of N.J.S.A. 45:1-21(f).

Respondent, agreeing to the voluntary surrender of her license and desiring to resolve this matter without further proceedings, and

the Committee finding the within disposition adequately protective of the public health, safety and welfare, and for other good cause shown;

IT IS THEREFORE on this 7 day of May, 2013,
ORDERED THAT:

1. Respondent shall immediately surrender her license to practice professional counseling in the State of New Jersey, such surrender to be deemed a revocation for a minimum of ten years. Credit towards the period of revocation shall not be granted for any time period in which respondent engages in any other form of mental health counseling in the State of New Jersey or any other jurisdiction or state, whether or not such counseling is provided in an exempt setting. Respondent shall not apply to have her license reinstated until she has fully satisfied all the terms and conditions of the federal plea agreement, including the terms and conditions of any sentencing resulting from a conviction. Respondent shall surrender her most recent wall certificate, license, and wallet size credential to Milagros Collazo, Executive Director, State Board of Marriage and Family Therapy Examiners, P.O. Box 45007, 124 Halsey Street, Newark, New Jersey 07101 immediately upon the filing of this Consent Order.

2. Respondent shall immediately cease, desist and refrain, from engaging in any mental health counseling in the State of New Jersey, including but not limited to, professional counseling and/or psychotherapy, custody evaluations, court ordered evaluations and/or volunteer or uncompensated counseling. Respondent shall cease, desist and refrain from engaging in any mental health counseling in any exempt settings.

3. In the event Respondent seeks reinstatement of licensure, Respondent shall:

a) Appear before the Committee to demonstrate that she is fit and competent to practice professional counseling, has been rehabilitated to the Committee's satisfaction, and has complied with the terms of this Consent Order.

b) Provide documentation to the Committee of satisfaction and completion of all the terms and conditions of the federal plea agreement, including any sentencing terms resulting from Respondent's conviction.

4. The Board reserves the right to deny any application for reinstatement of Respondent's license, and to place restrictions and/or limitations upon Respondent's license to practice professional counseling in the State of New Jersey.

PROFESSIONAL COUNSELOR EXAMINERS
COMMITTEE OF THE NEW JERSEY
STATE BOARD OF MARRIAGE AND
FAMILY THERAPY EXAMINERS

By:

Wm F. Green
William Green
Chair

I have read and understood
the above Order and agree to be
bound by its terms. I further
hereby consent to the entry of
this Order.

Patricia Delorenzo
Patricia Delorenzo, LPC

4.10.13
Date